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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CUCKFIELD.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

To the Chairman and Members of the Cuckfield Urban District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year



The Minister of Health has requested that interim reports only be submitted for the year 1942, and should be confined to actual matters which have affected the public health during the year. This procedure has, therefore, been adopted.

The Crude Death Rate is 13.94 as compared with 11.55 for the previous year and with 11.6 for England and Wales. The Infantile Mortality Rate is 14.85, which is considerably lower than that for the Country as a whole.

No deaths occurred from Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Measles or Whooping Cough.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

There was no serious outbreak of infectious disease during the year, and no cases of Diphtheria were notified.

Since the beginning of 1940, when over 90 per cent of the children 1 to 15 years of age have been immunised, only 4 cases of Diphtheria have been notified, three being adults and the other a child who had not been immunised.

Every effort was made during the year to persuade parents to accept immunisation for their children and 266 were immunised and 274 Schick tested. At the end of the year in the 1 to 5 years of age group ninety-nine per cent were immunised and in the 5 to 15 years group the percentage was ninety-six.

Details relating to the administration of the scheme were given in my report for 1941 and I only wish to state that a card is made out for every child, whether immunised or not, full particulars being entered thereon. The district nurses have charge of the cards of the under five children in their area and the headteachers of those of the children attending their schools. These cards are collected and checked in this office every year so that the figures given are as accurate as is possible.

Every child is Schick tested by Dr. Duke, Assistant Medical Officer of Health, three to six months after the second injection

(A.P.T. 3 c.cs. and 5 c.cs. being the prophylactic used) and children are again tested when they come to school. I consider the Schick test to be an essential part of the scheme as a parent who has accepted immunisation for her child deserves to be assured that the immunisation has been successful and the only means of giving that information is by performing a Schick test.

I am extremely indebted to Dr. Duke, without whose initiative and drive such excellent results would not have materialised. All testing and the majority of the inoculations were carried out by him.

I also wish to record my sincere thanks for their co-operation to the general practitioners, the district nurses, the headteachers and in particular to Miss Goodier, a voluntary helper attached to the Red Cross Society, who has devoted considerable time and energy interviewing parents and making arrangements for the inoculations. The figure of ninety-nine per cent in the under five group is due in no small measure to her activities.

Nurses Areas - Children 1 - 5 years of age.

Percentage

Cuckfield	99
Haywards Heath	99
Lindfield	95

Elementary Schools.

Lindfield	99
Cuckfield	98
Haywards Heath Senior	98
Haywards Heath St. Wilfrid's Junior	97
Haywards Heath St. Wilfrid's Infants	96

SCABIES.

Although Scabies was not a notifiable disease in 1942 general practitioners were informed by letter of the facilities available for treatment by the Council and it was suggested that this department be informed of all cases so that adequate treatment could be carried out. It has been found that home treatment of this disease cannot be carried out satisfactorily and if the public health department is not kept informed of new cases, other cases among the contacts frequently occur. The general practitioners co-operated extremely well and when a case occurred treatment was carried out at the Sick Bay for evacuated children or at the Mid-Sussex Isolation Hospital or at the Cleansing Centre for the local population. All contacts were seen by Dr. Duke, Assistant Medical Officer of Health,

or by your Medical Officer of Health. Those found to be infected received two treatments on successive days and those who appeared to be clear received one prophylactic treatment.

In addition a search was made for cases among the school children, the hands of several hundreds of these being examined for the presence of burrows and quite a number of cases were unearthed in this way. Diagnosis is made by the aid of the magnifying glass and microscope. By demonstrating the live mite under the microscope to the mother it was found that she was only too willing to co-operate fully by bringing the remaining contacts for an examination. I strongly commend this method to other Medical Officers of Health who have not tried it.

Seventy-four cases came to the notice of the department, 44 being evacuee children and 30 local children and adults.

It is interesting to record that the cases did not occur evenly throughout the year, some months being practically free, to be followed by a large batch in various parts of the district. This wave of cases was particularly noticeable and the weather did not appear to have any bearing on the phenomenon.

Although the general practitioners had co-operated by voluntarily notifying cases it was considered that the disease could be dealt with more satisfactorily if it were made compulsorily notifiable and the general practitioners would then receive a fee for each notification. Application was therefore made by the Council to the Ministry of Health to make an Order. This was sanctioned and made early in 1943.

#### HOUSING.

Since the beginning of the war very little repair work to houses has been carried out owing to the shortage of labour and restrictions on the provision of material. It will, therefore, be obvious that housing conditions have deteriorated during the past four years which will entail a considerable amount of work when conditions permit.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Constant supervision of the food trade has been maintained throughout the year involving 823 visits to the slaughterhouse, foodshops and bakehouses. It is interesting to record that the number of animals inspected at the slaughterhouse has increased each year since the commencement of centralised slaughtering. There is close co-operation between this department and the Regional Food Salvage Officer. The Senior Sanitary Inspector also inspects food rejected by the Services and many of the condemnations detailed in this report were of this nature.

I am indebted to Mr. Staynes, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, for his co-operation in the administration of the Health Services and to the other members of the staff and in particular to Miss Everson, my Chief Clerk.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the consideration, support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Summary of Statistics for the Year 1942.

Area of District in acres .....	3,912
Population estimated to middle of year .....	15,350
Rateable value .....	£137,749
Sum represented by a Penny Rate .....	£557. 10. 5.
Density of Population (persons per acre) .....	3.92
Number of Houses .....	4,133
Birth Rate per 1,000 population .....	14.85
Death Rate per 1,000 population .....	13.94
Infantile Mortality Rate .....	30.70

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD URBAN DISTRICT

	<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>
1.	Typhoid and Para-typhoid fevers .....	-	-
2.	Cerebro-spinal fever .....	-	1
3.	Scarlet Fever .....	-	-
4.	Whooping Cough .....	-	-
5.	Diphtheria .....	-	-
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system .....	2	1
7.	Other forms of tuberculosis .....	-	1
8.	Syphilitic diseases .....	-	-
9.	Influenza .....	-	2
10.	Measles .....	-	-
11.	Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis .....	-	-
12.	Acute inf. encephalitis .....	-	1
13.	Cancer of b.cav and oesoph.(male) uterus (female)	2	3
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum .....	3	2
15.	Cancer of breast .....	-	5
16.	Cancer of all other sites .....	10	10
17.	Diabetes .....	-	-
18.	Intra-cran. vasc. lesions .....	14	15
19.	Heart disease .....	25	43
20.	Other diseases of circulatory system .....	3	2
21.	Bronchitis .....	1	4
22.	Pneumonia .....	4	7
23.	Other respiratory diseases .....	1	3
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum .....	3	-
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years .....	-	1
26.	Appendicitis .....	-	-
27.	Other digestive diseases .....	2	4
28.	Nephritis .....	3	4
29.	Puerperal and post-abor. sepsis .....	-	-
30.	Other maternal causes .....	-	-
31.	Premature birth .....	1	-
32.	Con.mal birth inj. infant. dis.	1	1
33.	Suicide .....	1	-
34.	Road traffic accidents .....	1	1
35.	Other violent causes .....	2	3
36.	All other causes .....	10	11
		89	125

BIRTH RATE, CIVILIAN DEATH RATE AND ANNUAL ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY during the Year 1942 (Provisional Figures)

	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population.		Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
	Live Births	Still Births	
England and Wales			All causes
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	15.8	0.54	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers
148 Smaller Towns (Resident population 25,000 to 50,000 at 1931 Census) ...	17.3	0.66	Scarlet Fever
London ... ...	18.4	0.62	Whooping Cough
Cuckfield Urban District	14.85	0.65	Diphtheria
			Influenza
			Small-pox
			Measles
			Diarrhoea and Enteritis (Under 2 years)
			Total Deaths under 1 year
			Puerperal Sepsis Others Total

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales are as follows:- per 1,000 Total Births 0.42 1.59 2.01  
 The Maternal Mortality Rates for the Cuckfield Urban District are as follows:- ... ... Nil Nil Nil

MILK.

	Total:	Satisfactory:	Failed on account of:				Total Number:
			Count:	Coli:	Methylene Blue:		
February and March ...	32	23	- 1	6 1	2 1	2 1	9
April and May	7	5	2	2	2		2
June, July, August and September ...	63	46	- 8	9 8	9 8		17
October and November ...	24	24	-	-	-		-
<b>Totals</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>28</b>		<b>28</b>

SANITARY SUPERVISION OF THE AREA.

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	594
Foodshops	...	...	...	...	...	...	188
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	41
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	87
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	33
Primary Public Health Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	99
Re-inspections	...	...	...	...	...	...	193
Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	175
Disinfections	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	...	...	203
A.R.P.	...	...	...	...	...	...	98
Evacuation	...	...	...	...	...	...	75
Rats and Mice	...	...	...	...	...	...	46
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	174
Food Emergency Stores	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
							<b>2188</b>

Milk samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	134
Water samples	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Smoke tests and water tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	31
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

\* Approximately one third of these visits were made by the Sanitary Inspectors of the adjoining Rural District.

Complaints.

Fifty-three complaints were received and dealt with; 6 of these complaints were of Rat Infestation as compared with 1 in 1941, 6 in 1940, 38 in 1939 and 108 in 1935.

Notices.

Outstanding 1st January, 1942	...	...	105
Served during 1942	...	...	97
Complied with 1942	...	...	91
Outstanding 31st December, 1942	...	...	111

MEAT.

Carcasses of Animals Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle (excluding cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ...	672	622	1135	5621	523
Number inspected ... ...	672	622	1135	5621	523
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	6	11	13	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ...	46	155	8	215	28
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	7.14	25.88	1.67	4.05	5.92
<u>Tuberculosis only.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	50	6	-	7
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ... ...	104	276	6	-	36
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	16.07	52.41	1.05	-	8.21
Percentage of the number inspected during 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940, 1941 and 1942 affected with Tuberculosis ... ...	12.51	51.07	1.17	-	5.62

	Bulls	Bullocks	Cows	Heifers	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
January ... ...	2	11	40	11	67	232	62	425
February and March	9	33	105	52	224	999	116	1538
April and May ...	11	84	84	30	161	823	64	1257
June, July, August and September ...	25	138	214	95	449	1736	109	2766
October and November ... ...	5	41	110	68	152	1270	68	1714
December ... ...	1	25	69	31	82	561	104	873
Totals	53	332	622	287	1135	5621	523	8573

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

During the year 87 visits to cowsheds and 61 visits to dairies were made in connection with supervision of milk production and handling.

One hundred and twenty-six samples of milk were submitted for Methylene Blue Test, Bacterial Count and Coli Test, and 98 were found to be up to the Accredited Standard.

Of the 28 samples considered unsatisfactory, 11 failed the Methylene Blue Test, had high Bacterial Counts (one only exceeded 500,000) and the presence of *Bacillus Coli*; 15 failed the Methylene Blue Test and contained *Bacillus Coli*; and 2 failed the Methylene Blue Test only.

Eight samples of milk were submitted to Biological test for the presence of tubercle bacilli and found to be satisfactory.

Meat Inspection.

The third year of slaughtering at the Government's selected slaughterhouse saw a still further increase, the number of animals killed being 978 more than in 1941 and 1,786 more than in 1940. All animals slaughtered were inspected. Five hundred and ninety-four visits to the slaughterhouse were made, 8,573 animals were inspected and 987 condemnations involving 57,675 lbs. of meat and offals were made. Approximately one third of the meat inspection is done by the Sanitary Inspectors of the adjoining Rural District.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Disease	Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	5	3	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	2	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	6	-	-
Pneumonia	14	-	-
Erysipelas	7	2	-
Dysentery	34	3	-
Measles	104	-	-
Whooping Cough	24	2	-
Totals	196	10	-

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS.

Disease	Under 1 year	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over	Totals
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	-	5
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	6
Pneumonia	-	1	1	-	-	3	2	1	1	2	2	1	14
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	3	2	7
Dysentery	-	-	1	1	-	3	1	-	8	2	8	10	34
Measles	-	3	5	9	6	65	6	8	1	1	-	-	104
Whooping Cough	1	3	1	4	1	12	-	-	1	-	1	-	24
Totals	1	7	8	14	8	88	9	10	17	7	14	13	196

TUBERCULOSIS - NEW CASES AND MORTALITY 1942.

Age Periods	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	2	-	-	-	-	1	-
35 - 45	3	2	-	-	1	1	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	6	5	2	2	2	1	-	1

THE MID-SUSSEX ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

Appended below are details of cases admitted to the Hospital during the year.

Disease	Cuckfield Rural District	Cuckfield Urban District	Burgess Hill Urban District	Other Districts
Diphtheria	2	-	-	-
Diphtheria 'Carrier'	1	-	-	-
Vincent's Angina	3	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	45	4	8	-
Enteric Fever (Paratyphoid 'B')	1	1	-	-
Meningitis Cerebro-spinal	3	-	-	2
Erysipelas	1	1	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	10	3	-	-
Streptococcal Throat	1	1	-	1
Measles	11	1	1	-
Chickenpox	2	-	3	-
Whooping Cough	1	2	-	-
Mumps	4	-	-	-
Acute Adenitis	1	-	-	-
Otitis Media	2	-	-	-
Gonococcal Conjunctivitis	-	1	-	-
Impetigo	2	-	4	-
Scabies	83	8	27	1
Observation Cases	1	-	-	-
 Totals	175	22	43	4

